



24 February 1950

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY, JIGSAW COMMITTEE:

SUBJECT: Definitions

1. As requested by the Jigsaw Sub-Committee, the following definitions are hereby submitted to the Jigsaw Committee for consideration;

a. Para-Military Forces

The composition of a para-military force closely parallels that of a full-fledged military force, but to a lesser degree. Organized, equipped, and trained as a semi-military force, the para-military force can be quickly expanded and become part of a regular army establishment. Units of this type are utilized as internal security forces and may be trained in the use of artillery, tanks, and other heavy equipment of a military nature. Examples of para-military forces existing at the present time are Soviet MVD Troops, East German Police Force, Italian Carabinieri, French Gendarmerie, and the Border Constabulary Force of North Korea.

b. Resistance Groups

Inhabitants of an occupied country or a country controlled by force, who resist or bear arms against the controlling authority, may be properly called resistance groups. They are generally thought of as being armed with rifles, pistols, machine guns, and mortars, and are proficient in the use of mines, demolitions and sabotage methods. Their mission is of a harassing nature and operations are usually conducted in rugged terrain, along lines of communications, or in the vicinity of supply points. Operations are organized and controlled to achieve maximum results. Underground activities may also be carried out by resistance groups.

(1) Subversive Groups

Individuals or groups whose purpose is to weaken, undermine, discredit, or overthrow the duly constituted government of a country and/or its political or cultural institutions by any and all means, are properly considered subversive groups.

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(2) Guerrilla Activities

Guerrilla warfare is warfare conducted by organized bands in an overt, irregular manner and may or may not be motivated by patriotism or dislike of controlling power. Individuals usually become guerrillas because of hate, hunger, love of adventure, or for strong patriotic reasons.

(3) Partisan Groups

It is recommended that the designation "partisan" be used for enemy resistance forces only.

2. At the present time the Joint Chiefs of Staff are making a study of definitions which will include those enumerated above. It is felt, however, that the above designations will closely follow those of the Joint Chiefs of Staff when published.



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